

# The rise of the Islamic Empire

## Part 1

# The Prophet Muhammad

- Muhammad – born in Arabian Peninsula
  - Became a Merchant (trade)
  - Took great interest in religion
- At the age of 40, Muhammad's life was changed overnight
- Voice called out to him while he was Meditating in a cave outside of Mecca

# The Rise of Islam

- The Arabian Peninsula is a crossroads of 3 continents: Africa, Europe and Asia
- Trade routes connected Arabia to many areas such as Byzantine, Persian, Indian, and Chinese
- During certain holy months, caravans of merchants stopped in Mecca, a city in western Arabia

# The Prophet Muhammad

- Muhammad was born into a powerful Meccan family
- Became a businessman
- Took great interest in religion
- At the age of 40, Muhammad's life was changed overnight
- Voice called out to him while he was Meditating in a cave outside of Mecca



# Beginning of Islam

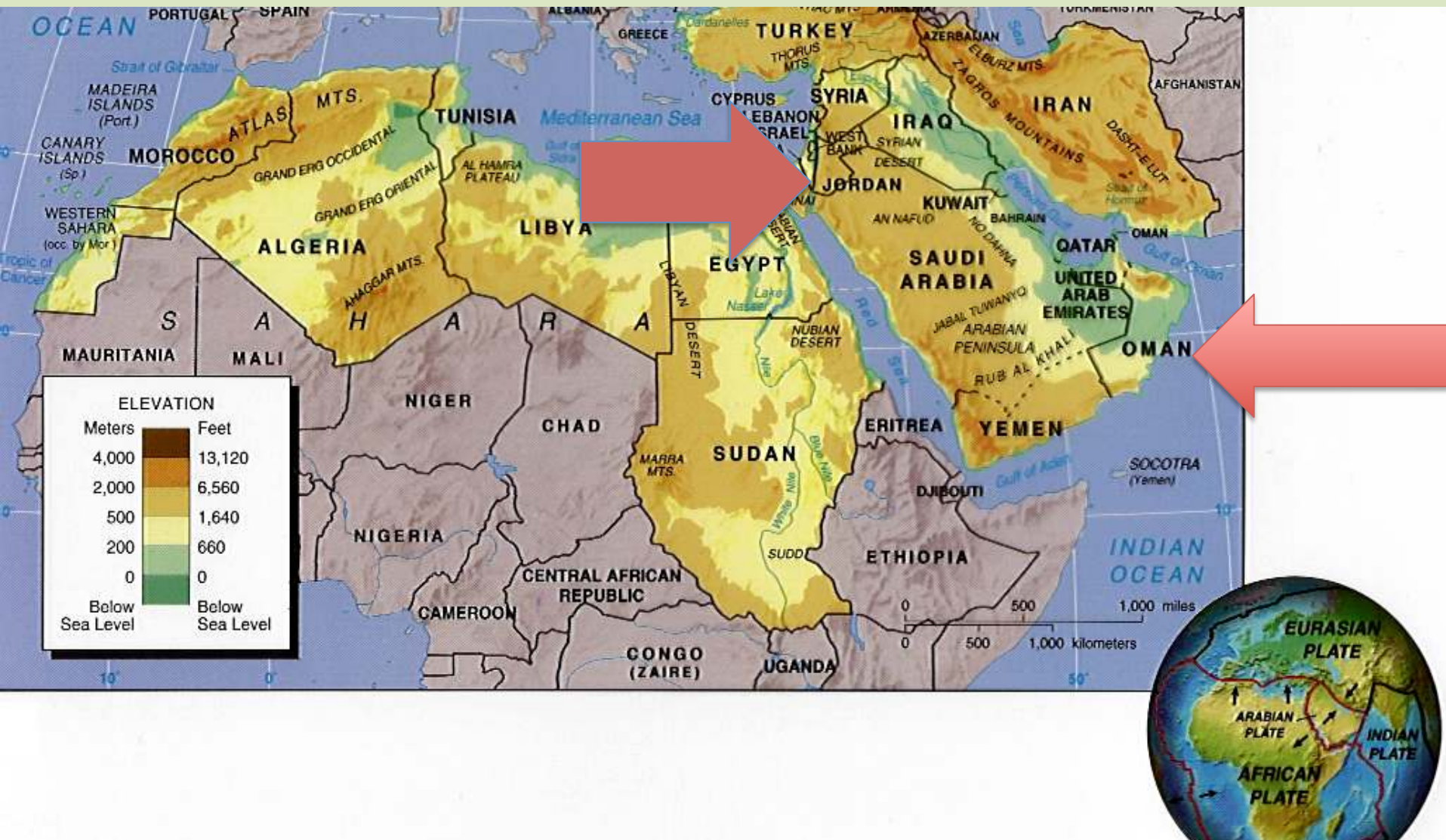
- The voice was said to be that of the angel Gabriel
  - Was a messenger from Allah (God)
- Began to teach Allah was the only God and all other gods must be abandoned
- Islam (submission to the will of Allah) became the religion
- Muslim (one who has submitted) become followers of Islam

# The Hijrah

- Mecca became pilgrimage center for those who accepted Muhammad's monotheistic beliefs
- Faced hostility in Mecca, migrated north to Hijrah (later called Medina)
  - Attracted many devoted followers there

# Arabian Peninsula: Beginning of Islam

Islam = Monotheistic religion (belief in one god)





# THE SPREAD OF ISLAM, 622 – 750 CE





# Bedouin – Desert Nomad



# Basic Beliefs and Practices of Islam

- Five Pillars:
  - Faith: Testify there is no God but Allah and **Muhammad** (prophet) is the messenger of Allah
  - Prayer: Five times daily – must pray towards Mecca
    - **Mosque** – house of worship
  - Alms: Responsibility to support less fortunate
  - Fasting: spiritual needs are greater than physical needs
    - **Ramadan**
  - Pilgrimage – Able to go to **Mecca** at least once in their lives



# The Great Mosque in Mecca (Saudi Arabia) Where Hajj is performed



# Non-Muslims are not allowed into Mecca according to Saudi law





# Muslim Architecture



# Muslim Society





# Arches









# ***Domes/Geometric patterns***





# *Dome of the Rock*

- Located in Jerusalem















# Minarets



- Towers built from where Muslims are called to prayer 5 times a day





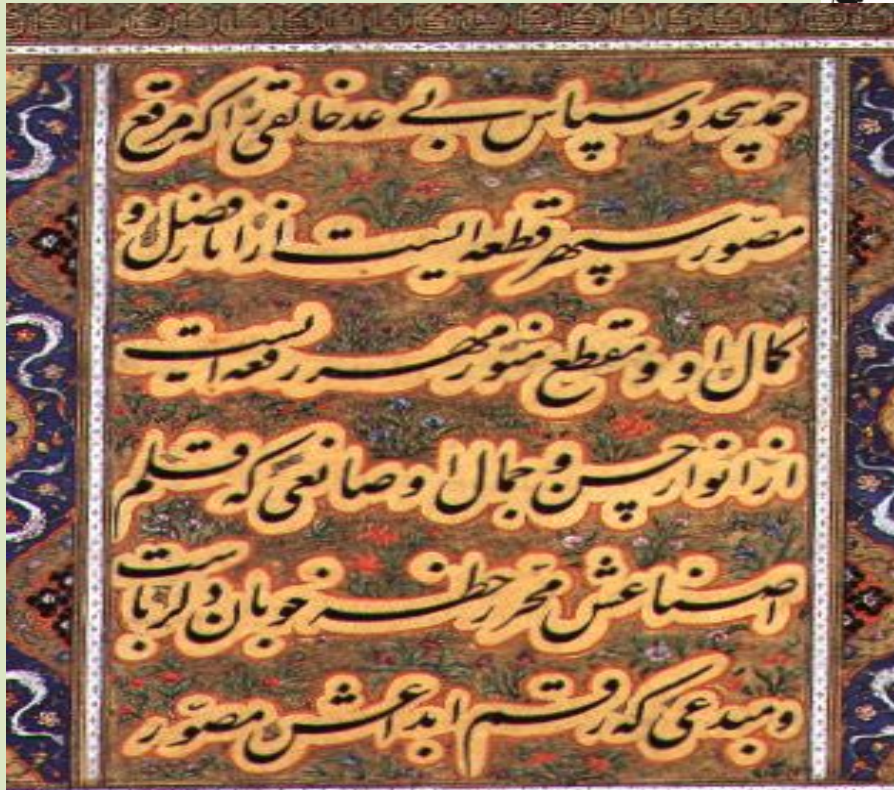


# Calligraphy

- Art of beautiful handwriting
- In Islam, the drawing living things in art was frowned upon



Diwani script is a cursive style of Arabic calligraphy developed during the reign of the early Ottoman Turks (16th-early 17th century).

















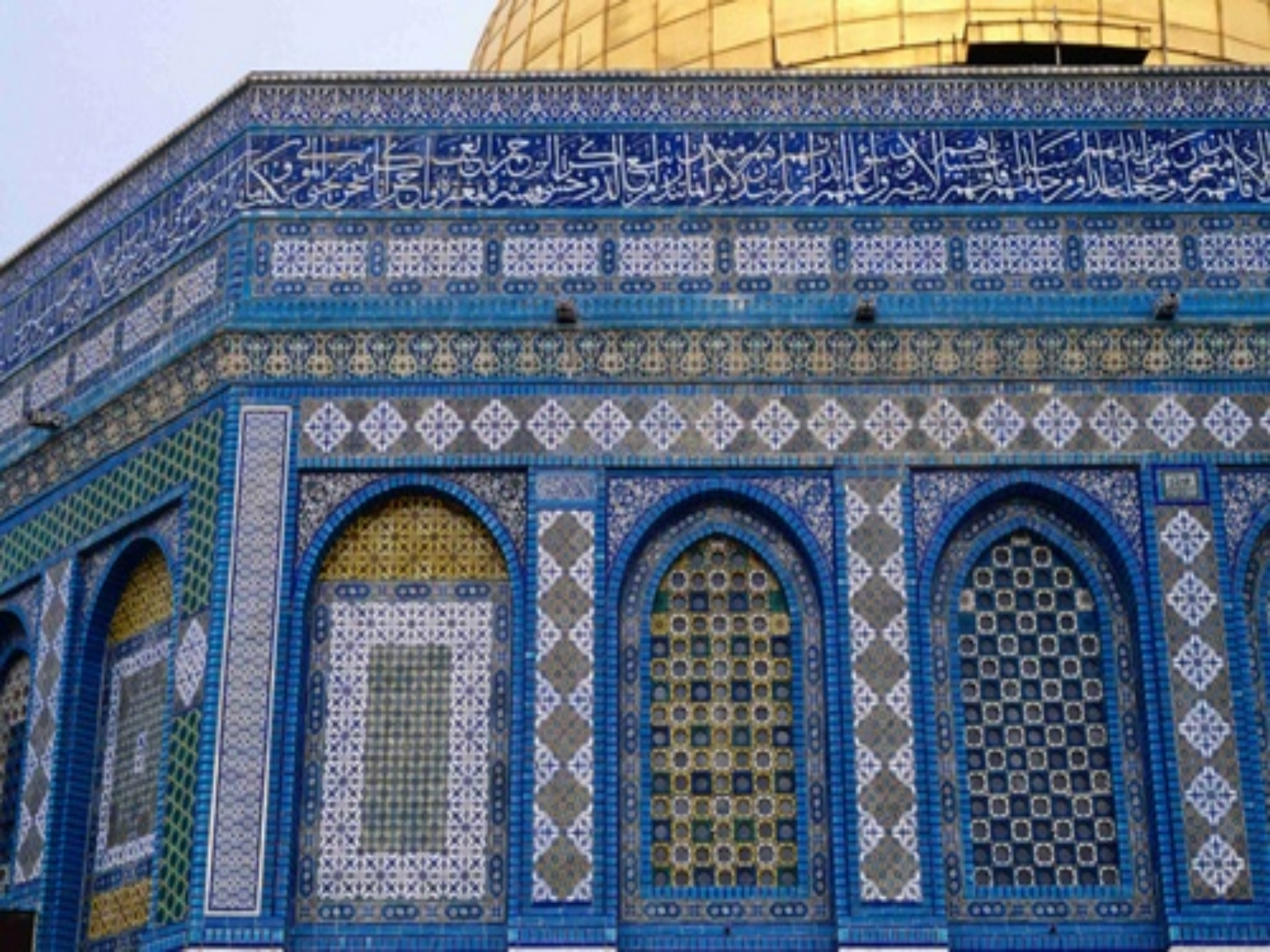
# Mosaics: Art using small tiles





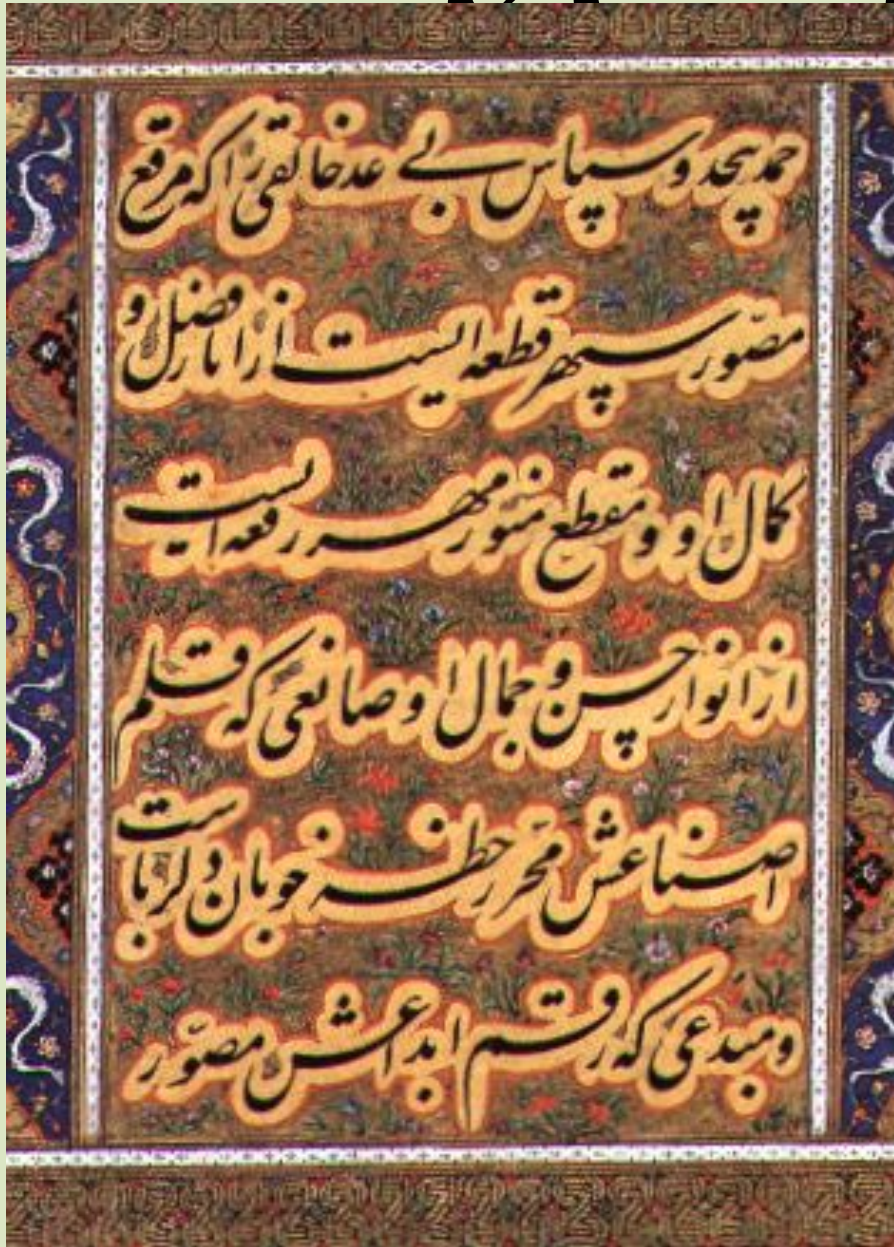








# Arabic Alphabet



- Arabic was first used to translate the context of the Quran (The Holy Book of Islam)
- Written from Right to Left
- Made up of 28 letters

# Basic Beliefs of Islam

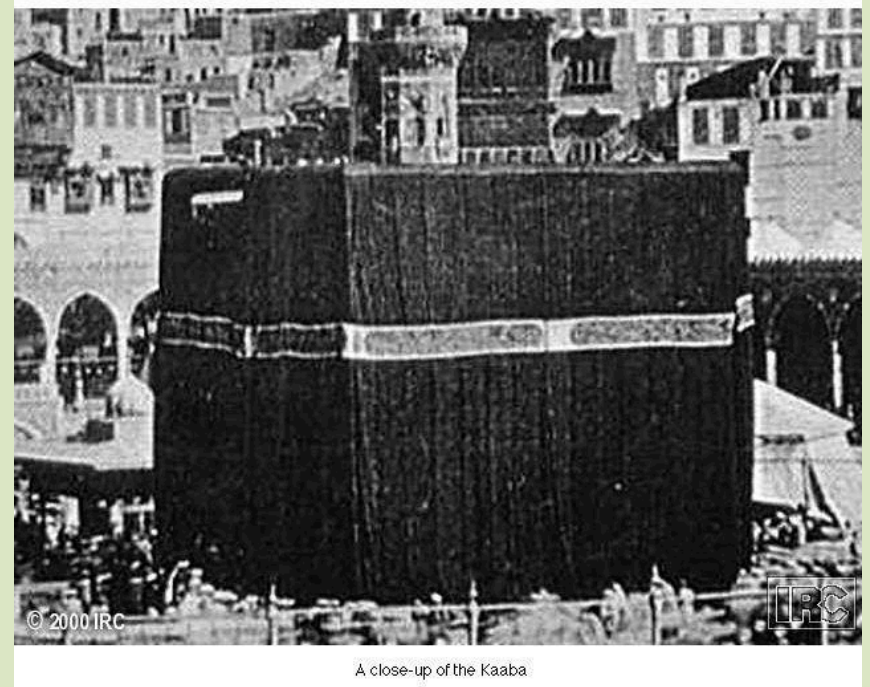
- Qur'an – holy book of the Muslims
  - Arabic version is the only true version
- Shari'a law – rules for the family life, moral conduct, business, and community life of Muslims

# Impact of Islam on Women

- Islamic empire extended many rights and protections to women
  - Spiritually equality for all Muslims
  - BUT....women had different roles in society
  - Overtime, as Islamic empire expanded, the rights for women changed
    - Women inherited less than men
    - More difficult for divorce
    - “Dress Modestly” = up to interpretation
    - Still impacts societies around the world today

# Islamic Civilization / Dar al-Islam

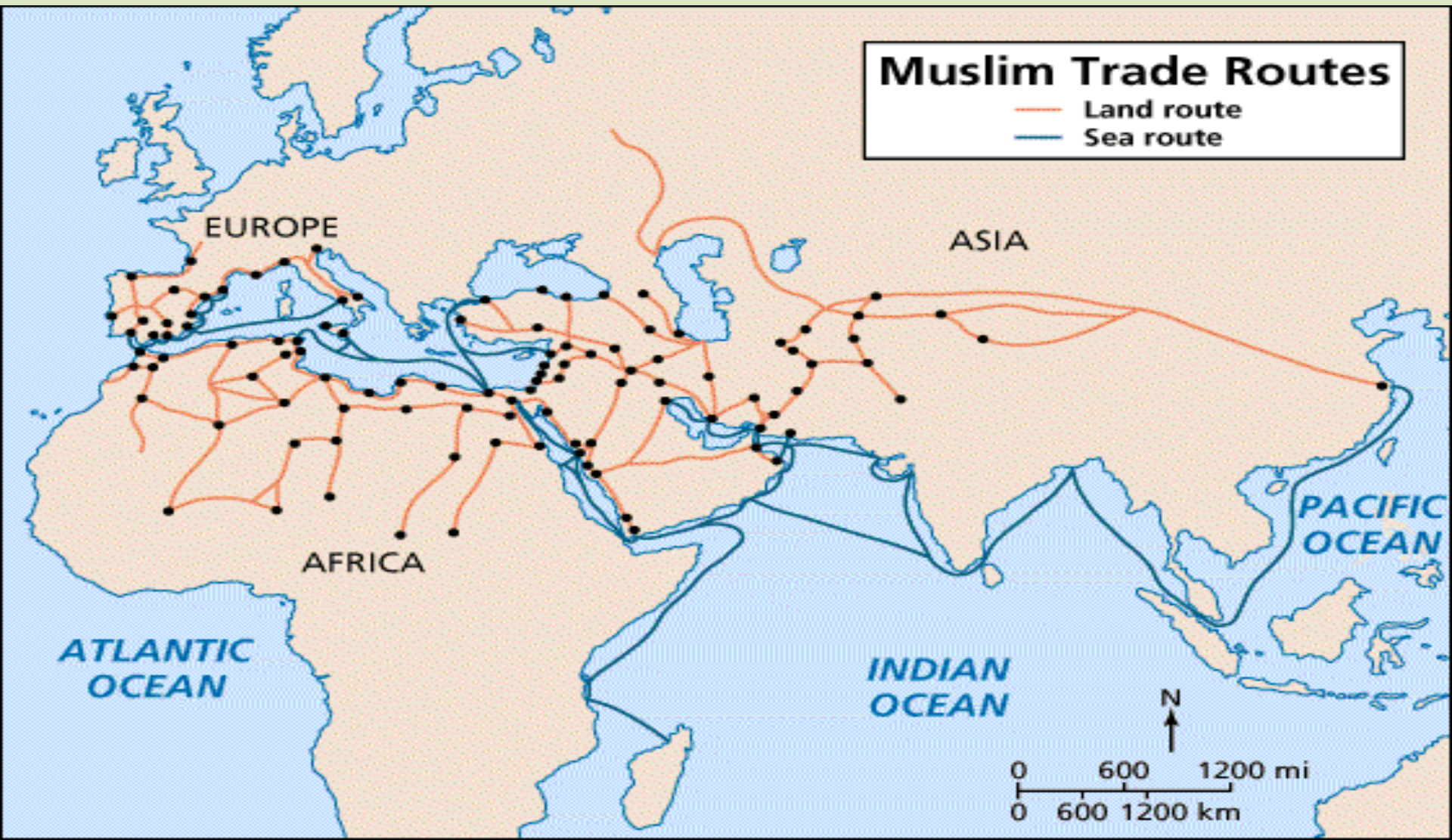
- ❏ Muhammad returns to Mecca in triumph
- ❏ Destroys idols, keeps Black Stone to symbolize acceptance of Allah as one god
- ❏ Umma – Muslim community
- ❏ Clans united under banner of Islam



A close-up of the Kaaba



# Islam Expands: Trade Routes



# Islamic Empire Under Muhammad





- After the death of Muhammad (632), they needed to choose a Caliph: Successor or leader
- Muslims disagreed on next leader
- Caliph--a leader who presides over the political, religious and military affairs (Theocracy)
- By bringing these separate components of civilization under a single leader, the **Caliphate** (the office of the Caliph) had a **unifying effect on Islamic civilization**.

# Sunni, Shi'a Schism

- Religious split in the Islamic Empire after Muhammad's death in 632 – continues to this day
- Shi'a (“party” of Ali) – believed leaders of Muslim community needed to be blood relatives (descendants) of the prophet
- Sunni (90%) - Believed leaders of Muslim community can be any “Good Muslim” selected by the Islamic community





# The Spread of Islam by 1500





# The “Rightly Guided Caliphs” #1

- #1 Abu-Bakr – Chosen as (first Caliph)
  - Unified various Arab tribes under one leader
  - Began military campaigns
  - *Jihad* – Military conquest of non-Muslim lands



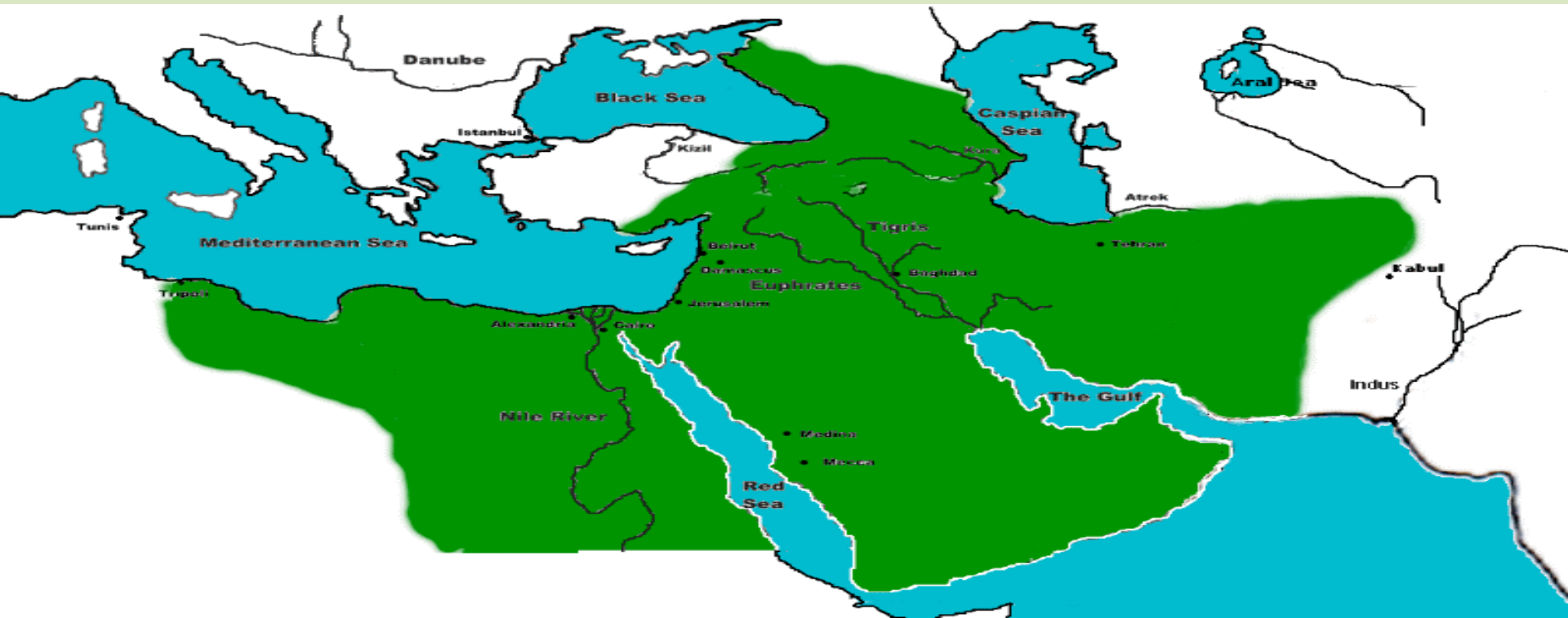
# Rightly Guided Caliph #2 and 3

- #2: Umar
- conquered: Syria, Egypt, Iraq, and much of Persia
- Persian's resented being under the rule of Arabs
- Assassinated in 644 by a Persian Christian
- Uthman (#3)
- Not well liked...also assassinated



# “Rightly Guided Caliph” #4: Ali

- Ali becomes new Caliph
- Challenged by many
- Assassinated in 661, the elective system of choosing a caliph died with him
- Map of Islamic empire after the four Caliphs



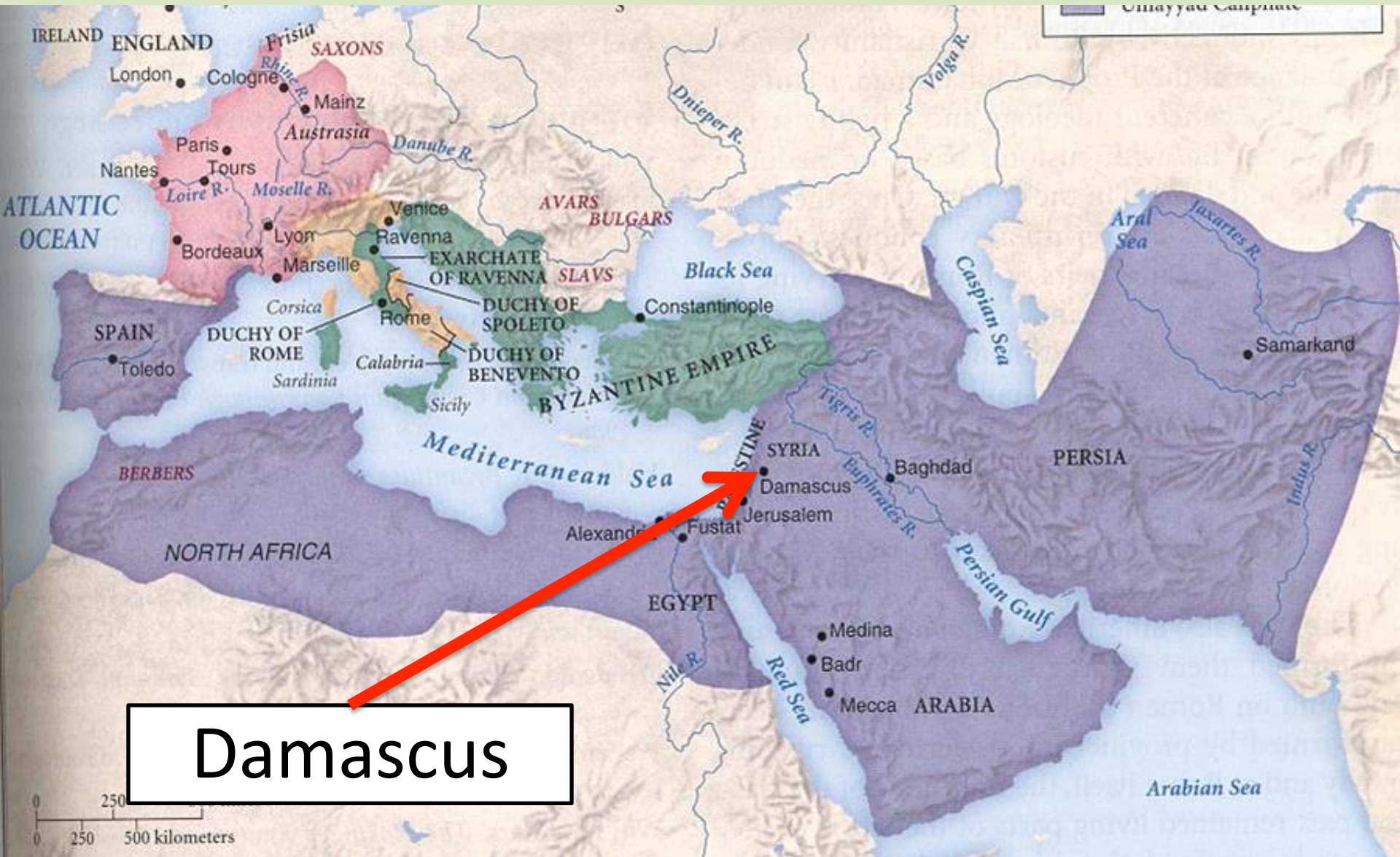


# Umayyad Dynasty

- ruled empire until 750
- Moved capital from Medina to Damascus, Syria
- Expanded the empire to Cordoba, Spain and Morocco to the Indus River Valley
  - Thrived while the rest of Western Europe was fragmented
- Decline: Luxurious lifestyle = tension



# Umayyad Caliphate (661-750)





# Umayyad Empire

- Arabic was the official language
- Minted currency
- Built roads
- Established postal routes
- Created civil service using old Byzantine and Persian civil servants



The Dome of the Rock (Qubbat al-Sakhra), Umayyad, stone masonry, wooden roof, decorated with glazed ceramic tile, mosaics, and gilt aluminum and bronze dome, 691-2, with multiple renovations, patron the Caliph Abd al-Malik, Jerusalem (photo: Orientalist, CC BY 3.0)



Author - Jerzy Strzele

Shown here is a side by side comparison of Byzantine and Umayyad art. The similarities are apparent in the use of mosaics, as well as the elements of movement and figure in the artwork. This is an example of how cultural influence resulted from significant conquest and expansion.



The Great Mosque began construction during the Umayyad Dynasty



# Alhambra













Mihrab, Great Mosque of Cordoba, c. 786 (photo: Bongo Vongo, CC BY-SA 2.0)





# Great Mosque of Cordoba, Spain





# Interior of Great Mosque of Cordoba



Interior of the Great Mosque of Cordoba, Spain, 8th-10th centuries



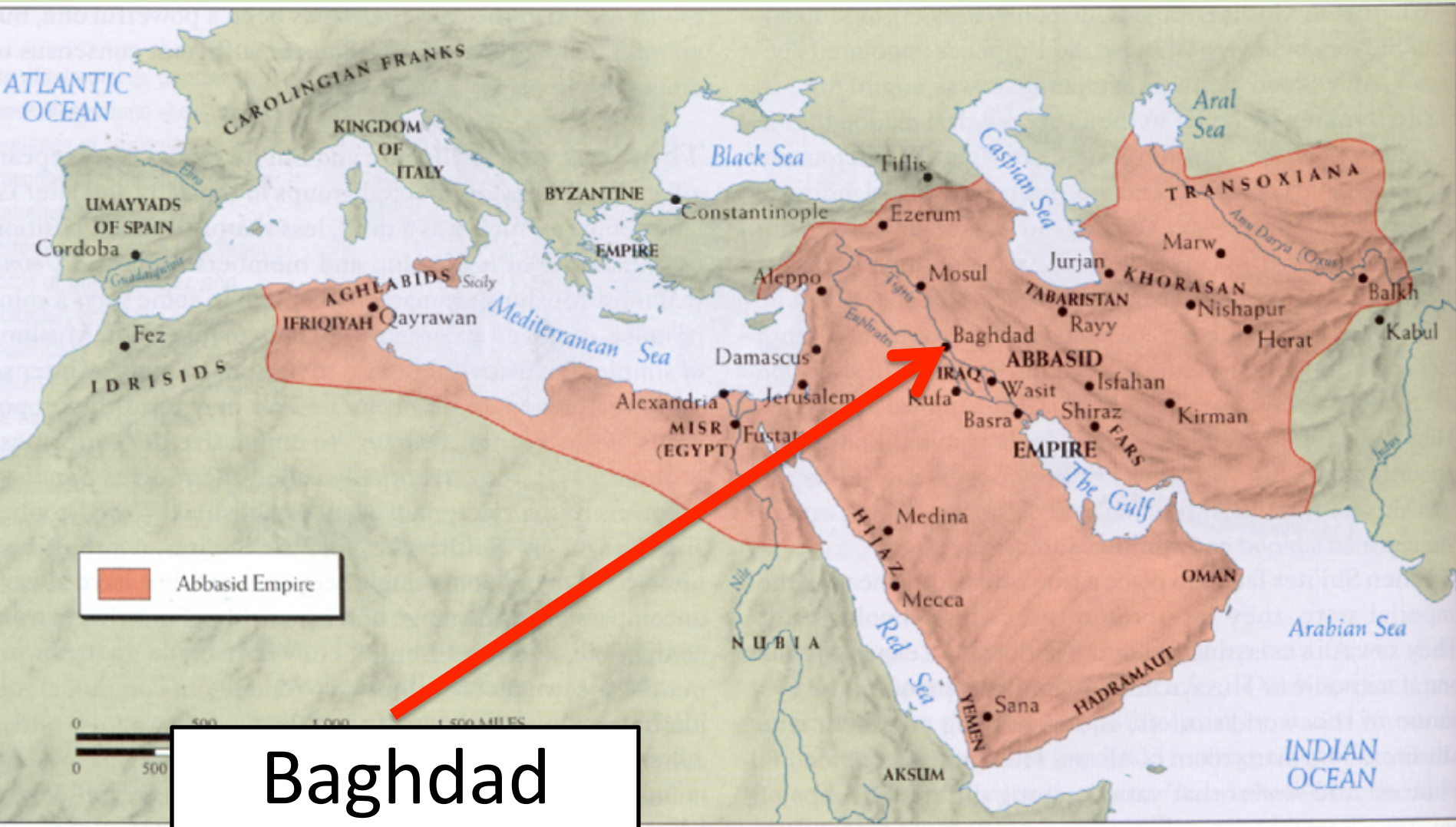


# Abbasids

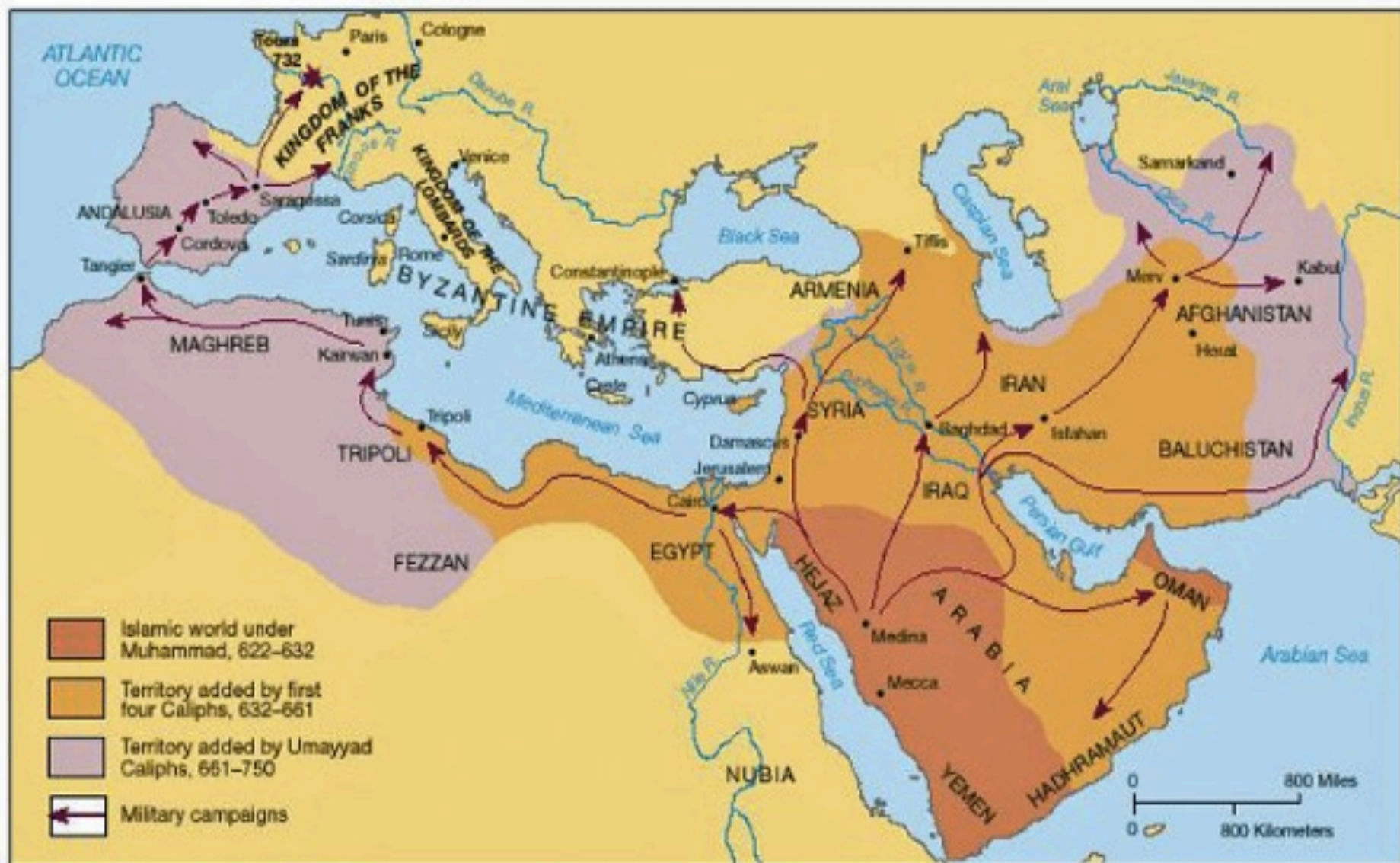
- “Considered the Golden Age of Islam”
- Moved capital from Damascus to **Baghdad**
  - Ideal spot for trans-Eurasian trade
  - Eventually rivaled Constantinople in both wealth and population
  - Became a hub of learning and commerce
  - Flourishing city with museums, hospitals, libraries, mosques




# Abbasid *Caliphate* (750-1258)







 *The Spread of Islam. The rapid spread of Islam created within a century a unified cultural and economic zone from India to the Atlantic Ocean within.*

# Trade

- Their lands connected to the Silk Roads
- Merchants needed only to speak a single language: Arabic
- Set up *Sakks* (Checks)
- Cordoba, Damascus, Cairo and Baghdad began to blend cultures and fuel achievements in the arts and sciences



# Reasons for success of Islam

- – the strength of the Arab armies
- – the use of a common language
- – and fair treatment of conquered peoples
- Trade Routes – Mohammad was a merchant as well
- Muslim armies were well disciplined
- Drew energy and inspiration from their faith
  - Saw victories as a sign of Allah's support
- People of conquered lands often welcomed Islamic faith
  - Jews, Christians and Zoroastrians viewed as “People of the book”
    - (treated fairly well – (paid tax)
  - Could choose to follow Islam: offered equality and hope
  - Could choose to not convert
    - (Qur'an forbids forced conversions of people)

# *The Rise of Islam*

- Cultural and economic unifying force in Eurasia and Africa.
- Islam provided social continuity during and after the rule of the caliphates
- Spread through military conquest, trade and missionary activity - Sufis most active missionaries
- Tolerance for other beliefs allowed it to spread
- Simple message of what to do and not do
- Appealed to the poor due to charity focus and inclusion as spiritual equals
- Universal civilization
- Merchants influence over trade routes allowed Islam to spread throughout North Africa and the Indian Ocean basin.